Steps to develop competence of rural sports persons

892. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have till date formulated any scheme to identify promising young sportsmen in rural areas of Punjab and Maharashtra in particular and other States in general in the country, with a view to develop their competence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when, the above mentioned schemes are likely to be identified/ implemented by Government with particular reference to Punjab and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to broadbasing games and sports and tapping the hidden talent in the rural areas of the country, including the States of Punjab and Maharashtra, Government of India is implementing a scheme named 'Rural Sports Programme' since 1970-71. Under the scheme, full financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for conducting District and State level rural sports tournaments. A National level rural sports tournament and a North East sports festival are also organzied under the aegis of the Sports Authority of India. Besides, Sports Authority of India is also implementing schemes titled 'National Sports Talent Contest' and 'Special area Games', under which children between the age of 8-14 years and youth between the age group of 14—21 years are selected through a scientifically designed battery of tests at block, district and regional level trials.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Setting up youth hostel at Hosur, Tamil Nadu

893. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a youth hostel at Hosur in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) The setting up of a youth hostel is considered on the basis of viable proposals received from the concerned State Governments and Union Territories Administrations. No proposal for setting up of youth hostel at Hosur has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Nehru Yuva Kendras

894. SHRI S. P. M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise break-up of Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) in the country and the number of youths enrolled with these NYKs; and

(b) the details of projects currently implemented by these NYKs?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) A State-wise list of Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) and the number of youths enrolled with these NYKs is given in the Statement. (See below)

(b) NYKs implements following programmes out of its own budget:—

(i) Youth Club Development Programme;

(ii) Awareness Generation Programme;

(iii) Vocational Training;

(iv) Sports Promotion Programme;

(v) Cultural Programmes;

(vi) Work Camps;

(vii) Adventure Promotion Programme;

(viii) Celebration of National and International days/weeks.

In addition, NYKs also implements the following schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports:—

(i) National Service Volunteers Scheme; and

(ii) Financial assistance to Rural Youth and Sports Clubs and Evaluation.

Over and above, Sangathan also implements the programmes/schemes of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India and other agencies from time to time.